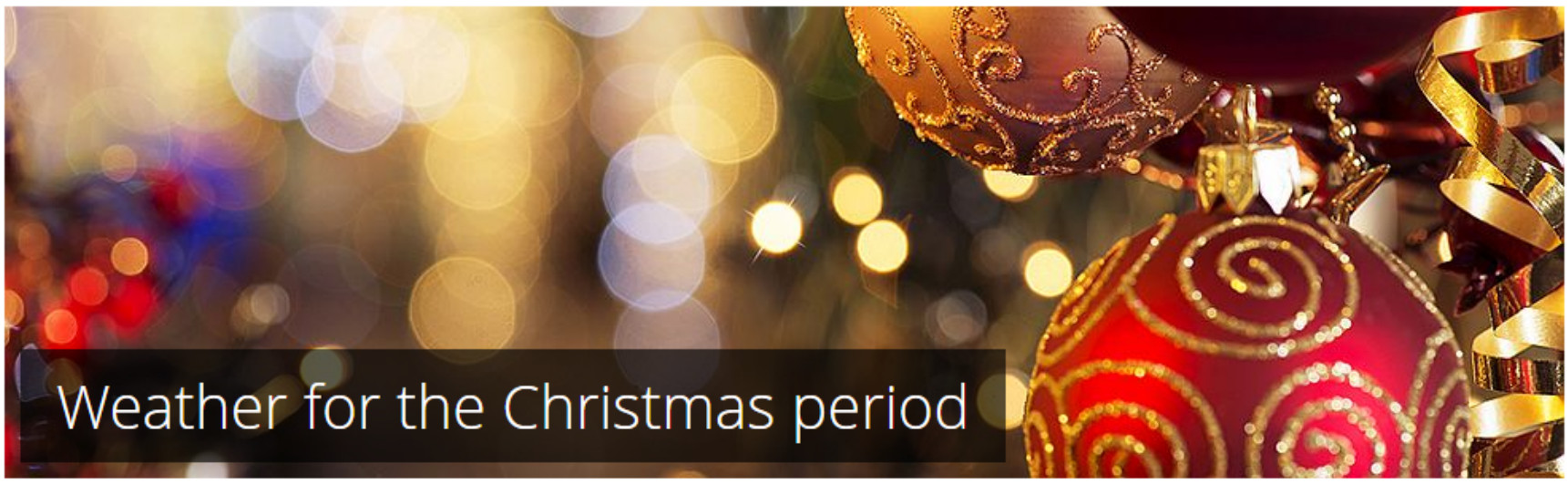


## 24 December 2015 - Unsettled conditions are expected to continue through the festive period with some severe weather possible

December so far has been mild and, in some areas exceptionally wet, and it looks likely that this theme will continue through until the end of the year with some spells of windy, wet weather but also drier, brighter periods with some showers. Although temperatures will remain above average, there will be some cooler days and nights with wintry showers possible over hills and mountains in the north of the UK and some overnight frosts.

Storm Eva passes to the northwest of Scotland on Christmas Eve and will not affect the UK during the rest of the Christmas period.

On **Christmas Day**, northern and eastern parts will be brightest with a chilly, frosty start in the north and some wintry showers. Further south, it is likely to be cloudier with rain soon arriving in the southwest of England as a new low pressure system arrives from the Atlantic. This rain will then spread northeastwards through the day.

It will turn milder as the rain sets in, so we're expecting a green Christmas rather than a white one for the majority of the UK.

The rain will continue to affect parts of north Wales, northern England and southern Scotland on **Boxing Day**. Mild and windy weather is expected across the south of the UK with a lot of cloud and perhaps some light rain. In the far north of the UK, it will be colder with bright spells and isolated showers.

National severe weather warnings for rain have been issued for northern and northwestern parts of Britain for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. There is still uncertainty over where the heaviest rainfall will be in the warning area, but around 60 to 80 mm is likely to fall quite widely, with a chance of up to 150 mm locally over high ground. Everyone should be prepared for potential further flooding and some disruption to transport.

Paul Mustow, Deputy Director in Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency, said: "Our thoughts are with all those who have had their homes and businesses flooded, some several times, in the run up to Christmas. Our operational teams are working throughout the Christmas period to take action to reduce the potential impacts of flooding and support those communities affected.

"With further rain forecast, we urge people to remain vigilant and check their flood risk or follow @EnvAgency and #floodaware on Twitter for the latest flood updates. We also want to remind people never to drive through flood water: just 30cm of flowing water is enough to move your car."

David Faichney, Duty Hydrology Manager from SEPA, said: "The unsettled wet weather is set to continue over the Christmas period as further bands of rain are forecast to affect parts of South West and Central Scotland. Current rainfall forecasts for Christmas Day evening could give rise to significant flooding in some parts of southern Scotland on Saturday (Boxing Day), however as forecasts that far ahead remain uncertain as to exactly where and when the heaviest showers will fall, the likelihood of flooding impacts is very low.

"Surface water will continue to be an issue throughout the festive period, with roads and urban centres likely to experience disruption.

"SEPA staff will be working closely with the Met Office and other partners throughout the holiday period to ensure that flood alerts and warnings are issued promptly. We would encourage the public to remain vigilant and check the SEPA website or call SEPA's Floodline for the most up-to-date information on their area."

Early indications are that stormy conditions will continue next week. Currently Tuesday has the potential to be very wet and windy and warnings may be issued for this over the next few days.

During this period of unsettled weather, people are advised to stay up to date with the latest Met Office forecasts and warnings and find out what to do in severe weather so they can plan ahead for the weather in store.

Last updated: 24 December 2015